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means for mixing said variably controlled signals to produce variably controllable third, fourth and fifth channel output signals.

REMARKS

The Examiner has rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C., Section 102 as being anticipated by Fujita or Shiraki or Yoshida et al or Miles or Ariga et al.

Applicant has cancelled claim 1 and added claims 2 - 5 addressing a method and apparatus according to the present invention.

None of the prior art references cited by the Examiner teach user variable control of the channel output signals during a performance. Claims 2 - 5 have been added to specify that either or both of the input and/or affected or second signals are variably controllable. If only the input signal is variably controllable or only the second signal is variably controllable, then one of the signals being mixed will be variably controllable. On the other hand, if both the input and second signals are variable, both the signals being mixed are variably controllable. Either way, the result is always variable third, fourth and fifth channel output signals. None of the prior art teaches variable multiple channel output signals controllable by the user in response to the user's audio recognition of the channel output signals.

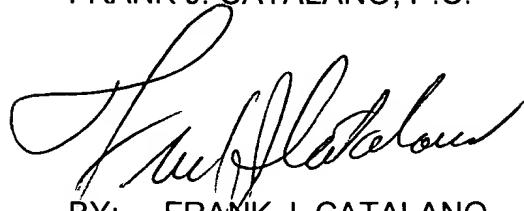
It is believed, therefore, that the added claims are distinguished over the prior art references and allowance of these claims is respectfully requested.

Enclosed please find a check in the amount of \$42.00 for the additional filing fee. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional costs or credit any overpayments in connection with this paper to the deposit account of the undersigned, No. 03-1127.

Attached hereto is a marked up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version with markings to show changes made."

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Claims:

Claim 1 has been canceled.

Claim 2 has been added as follows:

--2. A method of processing at least one channel input signal comprising the steps of:

receiving the input signal;

modifying the input signal to produce a second signal;

variably controlling one of the input and second signals; and

mixing the variably controlled signal and the not variably controlled signal to produce variably controllable third, fourth and fifth channel output signals.--

Claim 3 has been added as follows:

--3. A circuit for processing at least one channel input signal comprising:

means for receiving the input signal;

means for modifying said received signal to produce a second signal;

means for variably controlling at least one of said input and second signals; and

means for mixing said variably controlled signal and the not variably controlled signal to produce variably controllable third, fourth and fifth channel output signals.--

Claim 4 has been added as follows:

--4. A method of processing at least one channel input signal comprising the steps of:

receiving the input signal;

modifying the input signal to produce a second signal;

variably controlling the input and second signals; and

mixing the variably controlled signals produce variably controllable third, fourth and fifth channel output signals.--

Claim 5 has been added as follows:

--5. A circuit for processing at least one channel input signal comprising:

means for receiving the input signal;

means for modifying said received signal to produce a second signal;

means for variably controlling said input and second signals; and

means for mixing said variably controlled signals to produce variably controllable third, fourth and fifth channel output signals.--